

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing cognitive impairment of a user, ~~including~~comprising the steps of:

(a) presenting a visual test stimulus to the user for a pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration;

(b) masking the test stimulus;

(c) measuring a response from the user, the response providing information about (i) the user's perception of a characteristic of the test stimulus, and together with the (ii) a response time taken for the user to respond;

(d) repeating steps (a) to (c) to develop a user profile; and

(e) ~~assessing cognitive impairment in the user by comparing the user profile with a reference profile, and thereby assessing cognitive impairment in the user.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein step (d) ~~includes~~comprises repeating steps (a) to (c) for a range of pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein step (a) ~~includes the step of~~comprises presenting a focal point stimulus to the user before presenting the visual test stimulus to the user.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, ~~further including the step of~~comprising calculating, for each pre-determined test stimulus

~~exposure duration of step (a), a representative error rate representing the that represents a proportion of responses measured in step (c) which are inaccurate responses for each of the pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein the user profile ~~includes of (d) comprises~~ an error rate curve charting the representative error rate relative to the pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 ~~or claim 5 wherein;~~ calculating the representative error rate is calculated from comprises calculating a mean of the error of each response for responses at the each pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims, further including the step of claim 1, comprising~~ calculating, for each pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration, an average response time a mean response time for each of the pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations.

8. (Currently Amended) method according to claim 7, wherein the user profile ~~includes of (d) comprises~~ a response rate curve charting ~~the mean response time relative to the pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations~~duration.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims claim 1 wherein consequent presentations of a test stimulus to the user repetitions of step (a) are separated by a uniform time interval.~~

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the reference profile is generated ~~using~~from data that are selected from the group consisting of:

(a) data obtained from a reference group ~~including~~comprising cognitively normal individuals;~~or, and~~

(b) data previously generated by the user.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration is between 10 ms and 300 ms.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the user has a choice of two different responses for responding to each test stimulus.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein one of two or more different test stimuli are presented to the user in step (a).

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein each of the test stimuli are presented an equal number of times.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the test stimulus is masked by a mask that ~~includes~~comprises at least one ~~full-filled~~filled circle or curved line.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the mask ~~is~~comprises an image ~~including~~having a plurality of ~~full-filled~~filled circles or parts thereof.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the mask ~~is comprises~~ an image ~~including having~~ a plurality of curved lines or parts thereof.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing visual impairment of a user, ~~including comprising~~ the steps of:

(a) presenting a visual test stimulus to the user for a pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration;

(b) masking the test stimulus by placing a mask over or in place of the test stimulus;

(c) measuring a response from the user, the response providing information about ~~(i) the user's perception of specific characteristics of the test stimulus together with the,~~ and (ii) response time taken for the user to respond;

(d) repeating steps (a) to (c) ~~using to develop a user profile, wherein the same pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration to develop a user profile has a duration equal to the duration of the pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration of (a);~~ and

(e) comparing the user profile with a reference profile to assess visual impairment of the user.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing visual impairment of a user according to claim 18 wherein step (a) ~~includes the step of comprising~~ presenting a focal point stimulus to the user before presenting the visual test stimulus to the user.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing cognitive impairment of a user, ~~including comprising~~ the steps of:

(a) presenting a visual test stimulus to the user for a pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration;

(b) masking the test stimulus by placing a mask over or in place of the test stimulus;

(c) measuring a response from the user, the response ~~including comprising~~:

i. a response time; and
ii. either a correct or an incorrect indication of the visual test stimulus;

(d) repeating steps (a) to (c) to develop a user profile; and
(e) comparing the user profile to a reference profile to assess cognitive impairment in the user.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing cognitive impairment of a user according to claim 20 wherein step (a) ~~includes the step of~~ comprises presenting a focal point stimulus to the user before presenting the visual test stimulus to the user.

22. (Currently Amended) A system for assessing cognitive impairment of a user, ~~including~~ comprising:

(a) presentation means for presenting a visual test stimulus to the user for a pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration;

(b) mask means for masking the test stimulus after presentation of the test stimulus to the user;

(c) response measuring means ~~to measure the~~ for measuring a response from the user after presentation of the visual test stimulus;

(d) processing means ~~to process for~~ processing the response from the user over one or a range of pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations to develop ~~the~~ a user profile over the range; and

(e) assessment means ~~to compare~~ for comparing the user profile to a reference profile to assess cognitive impairment in the user.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for assessing cognitive impairment of a user according to claim 22 further ~~including~~ comprising focal point presentation means for presenting a focal point stimulus to the user.

24. (Currently Amended) A mask for masking a visual test stimulus, the mask ~~including~~ comprising an image having a plurality of filled circles or curved lines or parts thereof.

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to any one of claims 1, ~~to~~ 18 and 20, wherein the user profile ~~is~~ comprises a response curve.